

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for accessing a subterranean zone, comprising:
forming an entry well from the surface, the entry well having a substantially
vertical portion;
5 forming one or more drainage wells from the entry well to a subterranean
zone, each drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;
forming one or more articulated wells from the entry well to the subterranean
zone, at least one articulated well intersecting at least one drainage well at a junction
proximate the subterranean zone; and
10 forming a drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct
fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.
2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising forming an enlarged cavity
in each drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.
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3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising inserting a guide tube
bundle into the entry well and forming the one or more drainage wells and articulated
wells using the guide tube bundle.
- 20 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more drainage wells are
radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the one or more articulated wells are
radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.
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6. The method of Claim 1, wherein two articulated wells and two
drainage wells are formed.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein three articulated wells and three
30 drainage wells are formed.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein each articulated well intersects a disparate drainage well.

5 9. The method of Claim 1, wherein forming the drainage pattern comprises forming a main well bore and a plurality of lateral well bores extending from the main well bore.

10 10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the lateral wells are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising removing resources from the subterranean zone through the drainage pattern to the surface.

12. A system for accessing a subterranean zone from an entry well, comprising:

an entry well extending from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;

5 one or more drainage wells extending from the entry well to a subterranean zone, each drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

one or more articulated wells extending from the entry well to the subterranean zone, at least one articulated well intersecting at least one drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and

10 a drainage pattern coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction.

13. The system of Claim 12, further comprising an enlarged cavity formed in each drainage well proximate the subterranean zone.

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14. The system of Claim 12, further comprising a guide tube bundle inserted into the entry well for forming the one or more drainage wells and articulated wells.

20 15. The system of Claim 12, wherein the one or more drainage wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

16. The system of Claim 12, wherein the one or more articulated wells are radially spaced approximately equally around the entry well.

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17. The system of Claim 12, wherein two articulated wells and two drainage wells are formed.

30 18. The system of Claim 12, wherein three articulated wells and three drainage wells are formed.

19. The system of Claim 12, wherein each articulate well intersects a disparate drainage well.

20. The system of Claim 12, wherein the drainage pattern comprises a
5 main well bore and a plurality of lateral well bores extending from the main well bore.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the lateral wells are configured to drain an area of the subterranean zone of at least 640 acres.

22. A method for accessing a subterranean zone from an entry well, comprising:

forming an entry well from the surface, the entry well having a substantially vertical portion;

5 forming a plurality of drainage wells from the entry well to a subterranean zone, each drainage well comprising at least one slanted portion;

forming an enlarged cavity in each of the drainage wells proximate the subterranean zone;

10 forming a plurality of articulated wells from the entry well to the subterranean zone, each articulated well intersecting the enlarged cavity of a disparate drainage well at a junction proximate the subterranean zone; and

15 forming a drainage pattern, coupled to the junction and operable to conduct fluid from the subterranean zone to the junction, the drainage pattern extending from the junction into the target zone and comprises a set of lateral wells extending from a main well bore.